

Press Release

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PRESS CONFERENCE:

Mayor Starts Trail Construction, Unveils Greater Houston Greenway Trails Map

On Saturday, October 29, 2005, Houston Mayor Bill White was joined by The Park People to start construction of the Holly Hall Greenway Trail and to unveil The Park People's Greenway Trails Map of the Greater Houston and Harris County. The event took place at 9:30 am, at 2111 Holly Hall, between Knight and Cambridge.

The **Holly Hall Trail** is the first of 16 federally funded off-street trails integrating into the Houston Bikeway Program's 300-mile existing transportation bikeway network. The trail is a 10'-wide trail that includes lighting and native trees creating a linear greenway with a hike and bike path.

"This trail exemplifies our complete transportation bikeway system," said Mayor Bill White. "The neighbors along this trail represent Houston employment, homes, entertainment, health care, and recreational destinations."

The trail connects to the existing Ardmore bike route that extends to east Houston. The Holly Hall Greenway Trail continues west along Holly Hall connecting to the existing Cambridge bike lanes that lead into the Texas Medical Center, one of the largest cycling commute destinations in the city. The trail continues on Holly Hall to Fannin allowing trail users to extend their trip into downtown and other destinations by using the Metro Rail.

The Park People's Greenway Trails Map features parks and trails for hike and bike use in Houston and Harris County. The Park People, Houston's premier park advocacy group, unveiled today **The Park People's Greenway Trails Map**, the first consolidated greenway trails map for the entire Houston-Harris County region.

The map shows bikers and hikers the over 500 miles of greenway, or off-street, trails in the area, and will be available to the public in November through generous civic minded underwriters: Academy Sporting Goods Stores, HEB grocery stores, and the George Brown Convention Center. The map was created with seed money from The Jacob and Terry Hershey Foundation and The Energy Corridor Management District; all mapping was prepared by Peter Price, professor of geographic information systems at North Harris County Community College, and his students.

Trails can be used by any age and fitness level for casual pleasure or rigorous exercise. “Greenway trails are consistently one of the most desired features in parks and are key infrastructure in the effort to create a healthy community,” said Diane Schenke, the executive director of The Park People.

In our region, trails have been built by many different agencies—Harris County Commissioners, the City of Houston, planned communities, smaller cities, and management districts. Until now, all the systems have not been shown on a single map. The Park People’s Greenway Trails Map will make it easier for the public to take advantage of these important recreational and fitness assets.

“We hope that our map spurs use and enthusiasm for the Houston region’s greenway trails. And, we hope trail planners will use it to create those new trails that we need to link the entire area into a system,” said Candyce Rylander, volunteer board member and leader of the mapping project at The Park People.

Among the guests were representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation, Metro, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Houston Texans, Twenty One Eleven Apartments, Reliant Park, the Texas Medical Center, Harris County Hospital District and the South Main Alliance.

For more information on the Holly Hall Greenway Trail contact the Houston Bikeway Program at (713) 837-0003 or The Park People at (713) 942-PARK for information on The Park People’s Greenway Trail Map of the Greater Houston and Harris County.

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